AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method of altering an insulin-associated parameter in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a ghrelin or analog thereof; and an unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method comprises administering to said subject a composition comprising a ghrelin or analog thereof; and an unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said insulin-associated parameter is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a)~~ insulin level~~;~~

~~(b) insulin resistance;~~

~~(c) free fatty acid level;~~

~~(d) insulin activity;~~

~~(e) insulin sensitivity; and~~

~~(f) any combination of (a) to (e)~~.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said method is for preventing or

treating insulin deficiency in said subject~~alteration of an insulin-associated parameter is selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a decrease in insulin level;~~

~~(b) a decrease in insulin resistance;~~

~~(c) a decrease in free fatty acid level; and~~

~~(d) any combination of (a) to (c)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said method is for preventing or treating an insulin-associated parameter~~condition~~.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[4]], wherein said method is for preventing or treating insulin resistance in said subject~~insulin-associated parameter is insulin resistance~~.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said insulin resistance is associated with ~~a state or condition selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) postprandial state;~~

~~(b) reduced growth hormone level;~~

~~(c) reduced growth hormone activity;~~

~~(d)~~ obesity~~;~~

~~(e) diabetes;~~

~~(f) intravenous nutrition due to critical illness;~~

~~(g) metabolic syndrome X; and~~

~~(h) any combination of (a) to (g)~~.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said obesity is associated with~~state or condition is~~ reduced growth hormone level, activity, or both.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 [[8]], wherein said subject has~~state or condition is~~ type I diabetes.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 [[11]], wherein said subject has~~diabetes is selected from the group consisting of type I diabetes and~~ type II diabetes.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or analog thereof and said ~~unacetylated~~ unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is sequential.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or analog thereof and said ~~unacetylated~~ unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is simultaneous.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a fragment thereof.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said ghrelin comprises a peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said unacylated ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of

SEQ ID NO: 2 and a fragment thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said unacylated ghrelin comprises a peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ghrelin or analog thereof and said unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is administered through a route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, oral, transdermal, subcutaneous, mucosal, intramuscular, intranasal, intrapulmonary, parenteral, intrarectal and topical.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ghrelin or analog thereof is administered at a dose of about 1 μg/kg.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said unace~~t~~ylated ghrelin or analog thereof is administered at a dose of about 1 μg/kg.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is a mammal.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is human.

30-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said insulin-associated parameter is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a)~~ insulin level~~;~~

~~(b) insulin resistance;~~

~~(c) free fatty acid level;~~

~~(d) insulin activity;~~

~~(e) insulin sensitivity; and~~

~~(f) any combination of (a) to (e)~~.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein said method is for preventing or treating insulin deficiency in said subject~~alteration of an insulin-associated parameter is selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a decrease in insulin level;~~

~~(b) a decrease in insulin resistance;~~

~~(c) a decrease in free fatty acid level; and~~

~~(d) any combination of (a) to (c)~~.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said method is for preventing or treating an insulin-associated parameter~~condition~~.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[45] 2, wherein said method is for preventing or treating insulin resistance in said subject~~insulin-associated parameter is insulin resistance~~.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein said insulin resistance is associated with ~~a state or condition selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) postprandial state;~~

~~b) reduced growth hormone level;~~

~~(c) reduced growth hormone activity;~~

~~(d)~~ obesity~~;~~

~~(e) diabetes;~~

~~(f) intravenous nutrition due to critical illness;~~

~~(g) metabolic syndrome X; and~~

~~(h) any combination of (a) to (g)~~.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein said obesity is associated with~~state or condition is~~ reduced growth hormone level, activity, or both.

49-86. (canceled)

87. (New) A method for altering glucose level in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a ghrelin or analog thereof; in combination with an unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said method comprises administering to said subject a composition comprising a ghrelin or analog thereof; and an unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein altering glucose level involves lowering glucose level in said subject.

90. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or analog thereof and said unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is sequential.

91. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said administration of said ghrelin or analog thereof and said unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is simultaneous.

92. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a fragment thereof.

93. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said unacylated ghrelin comprises an amino acid sequence substantially identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a fragment thereof.

94. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said ghrelin or analog thereof and said unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is administered through a route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, oral, transdermal, subcutaneous, mucosal, intramuscular, intranasal, intrapulmonary, parenteral, intrarectal and topical.

95. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said ghrelin or analog thereof is administered at a dose of about 1 μg/kg.

96. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said unacylated ghrelin or analog thereof is administered at a dose of about 1 μg/kg.